

## FEWER INDIAN DOCTORS.

Healers and Prophets Among the Redskins Passing Away.

A Higher Stage of Civilization Dawning Upon the Tribesmen. Enthusiasm as to the Influence of Mystic Spirits No Longer Exist.

Those who have studied the varied phases of Indian life claim to have noted the passing of that mysterious character known as the Indian "medicine man." They assert that a few more years will mark the extinction of this dignitary among the tribesmen, and the arrival of a higher stage of civilization, which has been gradually settling over the redman for the past quarter of a century.

It is said that those unacquainted with the peculiar traits of Indian character can form no conception of the depth of reverence and awe aroused in the mind of untutored savages toward what they deem the supernatural power of these wizards, who, thirty years ago, were in the zenith of their influence. Now, however, they are fast dying out, and their number is comparatively few.

"By 'medicine man' is sometimes meant a prophet," said an old Indian agent, who has recently returned from the Sioux reservation. "Both Indian doctors and prophets are usually referred to as medicine men, although the term is sometimes wrongly applied. There is a distinction between the two. Wakanwachase is a Sioux word, meaning a prophet, who is in communication with the Great Spirit, and can foretell events. Wakachewash means a medicine man or doctor. There are Indian doctors who do not profess to be able to foretell events, but simply cure bodily ills, and others who give their whole attention to prophesying. But as a rule the majority of them are medicine men in both senses of the term.

"The power of the medicine men has been gradually declining for the past twenty years. Every Indian was accustomed to believe implicitly in the contents of the medicine men that they possessed the power to cure all bodily ailments, and that if unbelievers scoffed at these extravagant claims, the medicine men had also the power to wreak a supernatural vengeance upon them.

"The medicine man qualifies for his profession under the greatest secrecy. A young Indian who is ambitious to become a doctor, and finally a prophet, learns from his father or other member of the tribe the name and medicinal properties of some herb. He can also, by presenting a sufficient number of ponies to a medicine man, prevail upon the doctor to impart the secrets of the herbs to him.

"Frequently Indians allege that the secret is revealed to them in a dream, or by a bird or animal. After procuring it, the novice is prepared to begin the practice of medicine.

"In the opinion of the Indians success is only possible with the aid of the Great Spirit, and in order to invoke the aid of the supernatural being they are accustomed to resort to various sacrifices. Among these is the practice of ascending a butte or other elevation, and lying with the face to the ground for several days without food, or until they are completely exhausted. During this period they profess to have been taught some song, or the Great Spirit converses with them through a weed, bird, wild animal, or reptile. They sometimes say that wolves come to them and howl, and that they understand what the animals say.

"While treating a patient they place tobacco in little pouches, which they tie with sinew. These are painted brilliant colors, and fastened to willow sticks about the size of the shaft of an arrow, but somewhat longer. Occasionally, as a substitute for the bags of tobacco, strips of animal skin are fastened to the tops of the sticks and permitted to flutter in the breeze. The sticks are also gaily painted, and inserted in the ground or crevice of rock on top of a hill. This is done to gain favor with the Great Spirit, and secure his assistance in the work of curing the patient, the tobacco and flannel constituting an offering.

"Even now anyone traveling over the Sioux reservation may occasionally see tops of hills dotted with these sticks, which have been planted there by the Indian doctors, who still continue to a certain extent their prohibited practices.

"D. W. Spaulding, a well-known hunter and guide throughout the territory lying between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains, informs me that he has seen as many as one hundred of these sticks inserted in the ground in one place. At a point in the famous Dakota Bad Lands he recently saw a number of the brilliantly painted sticks, with the bases of the sticks and the upper ends, placed around a large rock. The face of the rock had also been painted in stripes of red, blue, and yellow, and lying upon it were two large pieces of tobacco. The tobacco did not remain long after its discovery. But it is a notable fact that Indians themselves, although some of them may not fully believe in the alleged supernatural power of the medicine men, will never remove or even touch these offerings to the Great Spirit, looking upon such an act in the light of a sacrilege.

"Generally speaking, the mode of practice of the Indian doctors after placing the offerings to the Great Spirit on a near-by hill, is to give the patients medicine and then chant songs over them to the accompaniment of a tom-tom, or crude drum, made by drawing dried skin tightly over a wooden frame, from kettle, large tin can, or other hollow article or utensil that will answer the purpose.

Herbs furnish the ingredients for all medicines. In some instances, the Indian doctors chew up herbs and hold them to the patient.

Dr. Fred Treon, Indian agent at Crow Creek and Lower Brule agencies, has had over ten years' experience among the Indians of Dakota and Arizona. A great part of the time he has spent as Government physician, thus being brought into constant contact with Indian "medicine men."

"The medicine man," said Dr. Treon, "sits while operating, usually over his drum or directly over the patient. Everything he does is supposed to be wrapped in the deepest mystery. He sometimes applies his mouth to the place of pain, after first washing it with clean water. By doing this he claims

he is sucking out the disease with which the patient is afflicted. The medicine men resort to herbs, and occasionally do not understand the medicinal properties of them. When a patient is very sick, they, on rare occasions, give what is termed a medicine feast (a savage term for consultation, doubtless). On this occasion all who are present are requested to partake of all that is placed before them. Dogs enter very largely into these feasts, being considered a rare delicacy.

"The native doctors are very curious and jealous about the methods of white physicians. The use by a white physician of a hypodermic syringe to relieve the sufferings of an Indian attracted the attention of an Indian doctor, who was much astonished at the result. The Indian doctor lost no time in suggesting a partnership, that the Indian doctor agreeing to do the drugging if the physician would use the hypodermic syringe to quiet pain.

"All diseases are attributed by the medicine men to the agency of an evil spirit. Consumption, according to their notion, is due to grass seed being carried through the air by wind and lodged in the lungs. Indians still frequently complain that they feel worms creeping under their skin, and come to the Government physician and ask to have them cut out.

Since the establishment of Indian courts at several of the Sioux agencies, a tireless warfare has been waged against the "medicine men" and their practices, and it will not be very long before these picturesque and interesting characters will have vanished from the face of the earth.

## AN ANGRY LEOPARD.

Tried to Escape on Board Ship and Scared the Crew Badly.

With the arrival of the British steamer Baccantur, which lay off Quarantine yesterday, and bound from Calcutta, came the news of a novel experience of a seafaring life and the story of a danger which the ordinary seaman dreads to recall which did not fall within the list of those which he usually is called upon to face. Captain and crew of the Baccantur put in a most unpleasant hour before they had the animal once more safely on board, and the ship's carpenter next day was set to work on a cage which should be substantial enough to permit all to sleep in peace.

The leopard in question, which appears to be little the worse for his long voyage, is a splendid specimen. He is consigned to Mr. Burke, of Philadelphia, and detailed instructions were given for his care when he was put on board. At the first sight of the animal, five goats were shipped for his benefit, of which it may be mentioned, only five remained last night.

Whether it was the smell of the goats that roused his appetite or whether it was the nasty drip of the open sea that turned his stomach the first night out, the leopard grew more and more restless as the shore dropped astern.

The cage in which he had been sent down from the country was a flimsy affair, knocked together by natives, but the captain of the Baccantur, Newman, was assured that the bamboo bars were extraordinarily tough, and that, as it had brought the huge animal so far, it could be trusted to hold him safely throughout the voyage.

The men were careful, however, to satisfy their curiosity at a distance and not to go too near the cage. As the night wore on, and the ship kept up a continual howling, and all attempts to quiet the beast seemed only to rouse his fury. The vessel was pitching a good deal, and there was a cry of alarm as the leopard suddenly either fell or flung himself against the bars of his cage. The bars yielded, but did not break; but now the brute was fighting mad.

All the men off duty quickly gathered around, and the animal began to tear at the ropes, flapping off great splinters with his claws. He was so restless that something soon would give way if he was left to himself, and an attempt was made to beat him back into a corner, where the bars set into the angle of a bulkhead. But the animal was too strong for the men around him and the noise of the wind and sea had goaded the animal to frenzy.

The cage was roomy, since no other space could be allotted to him for exercise on board, and he romped around in a circle, and then began to break through a weak spot. Every man who could be spared was called forward to assist, and the animal was finally driven within reach of those murderous claws, which he threatened to be out of the cage. The last knot was tied, and the leopard was safely ensnared in a veritable prison. Even in the darkness of the night, when the work was done, and all were piped off for grog—New York Press.

## THE COST OF WAR.

Figures Which Show the Amounts Expended by Various Nations.

The disbursements by the United States Treasury on account of the civil war from July 1, 1861, to June 30, 1865, amount to \$1,157,241,000. It is estimated that the additional cost of the war, including the debt, interest, and pensions from June 30, 1865, to July 1, 1900, amounted to \$3,944,828,775, making a total Federal expenditure of \$5,102,069,775. The disbursements of the Federal Government exceeded \$3,000,000,000 for the mere maintenance of armies in the field. It is estimated that the governmental expenditures on both sides in the civil war will, when the books are closed, amount to \$17,722,000,000, and that the individual losses during the war amounted to \$9,000,000,000. Placing the cash expenditures of the United States in the civil war at \$17,722,000,000, in the Spanish war at \$500,000,000, and in the war of 1812, the Mexican war, and the Indian wars at \$200,000,000, it is estimated that the total contribution of the United States Treasury to the war fund for the century is \$18,422,000,000.

It is estimated that the Napoleonic wars from 1792 to 1815 cost \$2,500,000,000; the war between Russia and Turkey in 1828, \$1,000,000,000; the war between Spain and Portugal from 1808 to 1810, \$250,000,000; the war between France and Algeria, from 1830 to 1848, \$50,000,000; the Crimean war in 1854, \$125,000,000; the war in 1859 between France and Austria, \$100,000,000; the war between Germany and France in 1870-71, \$175,000,000; the war of 1871 between Russia and Turkey, \$100,000,000; the war between France and Brazil in 1893, \$100,000,000; the war between Brazil and Paraguay in 1864 to 1870, \$200,000,000. These figures are from Mulhall's "Costs of Wars," and include only direct Government expenses. It is estimated that the minor wars of Great Britain in India, Egypt, and Persia have cost \$1,500,000,000. The Boer war has already cost England \$600,000,000, and Spain has spent \$100,000,000. On these statistics, the cost of the American civil war is \$5,102,000,000, and the total cost of the American civil war is \$5,102,000,000.

That backcountry American maiden who said London was a nice place if you knew the language was not a bit absurd. We speak English, but we have built up our forms of English expression under the influence of a few shires of the old country. It was spoken between two and three centuries ago, while they have been blending and changing the speech of all

## THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

Washington Indicated a Desire for Such an Institution.

Prof. Thomas Wilson Explains the Purpose and Scope of the Proposed Great Educational Establishment—Consentations Work Done.

The agitation in behalf of a National University is based, it is said, primarily upon the following, written by George Washington in 1785: "I have greatly wished to see a plan adopted by which the arts, sciences, and belles-lettres could be taught in their fullest extent, thereby embracing all the advantages of European tuition with the means of acquiring the liberal knowledge which is necessary to qualify our citizens for the exigencies of public as well as of private life, and (with me) is a consideration of great magnitude by assembling the youth from the different parts of this rising Republic, contributing from their intercourse an interchange of information to the removal of prejudices which might sometimes arise from local circumstances."

Washington manifested his faith in the project by bequeathing stocks to the value of \$25,000 as a personal contribution toward his ideal "seminary of learning," and later in officially reserving a tract of nineteen acres in this city, long known as "University Square," as a site for the institution.

It may be well to mention, however, in this connection, that Prof. Thomas Wilson, who has been connected with the present National University almost from its foundation, "that the stocks which Washington bequeathed for his proposed national institution of learning were in the Great Falls water works, of which great hopes were entertained at one time, but which have gone to rack and ruin many years ago, so that the stocks would not be worth the paper they were written on at the present time. This little fact is generally not mentioned by the advocates of the National University, notably by the framers of the numerous bills presented before Congress for the establishment of the institution. A Congressional committee, however, investigated the matter in recent years and showed the worthlessness of the stock bequeathed by Washington.

"Regarding my opinion as to the advisability of making the scientific departments and bureaus of the Government parts of a great educational institution, I cannot myself approve. There are so many things to be cited as objections against the success of such an undertaking. It will, I am convinced, be impossible to eliminate the element of politics in the curriculum of such departments of the institution as law, finance, and diplomacy, each political party endeavoring to inculcate its own principle in such questions.

"Special investigations of various scientists now employed directly or indirectly under the Government would necessarily be interrupted by the duties of a teacher should these be superadded, while the latter office would not be as satisfactorily filled as by some one whose province is, thus resulting, perhaps, in injury to both professor and pupil. As it is now, any earnest investigator is welcome to all the facilities that can be afforded him in any of the scientific branches of the Government, provided only that the necessary work of the Government be not interrupted.

"Without going into further particulars to justify my opinion, I will only say, then, that I do not see the necessity for the amalgamation of the Government's scientific branches to serve the purposes of an educational institution, as proposed."

Prof. Wilson is one of the incorporators of the present National University, having been identified with that institution since its foundation as member of the board of regents and professor in the medical department. In speaking of the origin of the university, Prof. Wilson said:

"During the civil war, and for a year or so after the final termination of that contest, a combination barracks and hospital was situated on Judiciary Square, which was surrounded by a high fence. The barracks or hospital was for invalid soldiers, and the hospital was for invalid soldiers, and the barracks were without arms of any description, some with uniforms, some dressed in civilian clothes, and many with crutches. The soldiers were armed with rifles, and the civilians with swords or guns. Such was the mother of martial array that was presented in the maneuvers that were conducted on the grounds of Judiciary Square, and one of which, that on the grounds of the District jail, and the other, as today, by the City Hall.

"On the northeast corner of E Street, and facing the tall wooden fence of Judiciary Square, was a building used during hostilities as an army hospital. The building was further used for this structure as a hospital it was let as a public hall. And here it was that Mr. John W. Hoyt, of the Pennsylvania Avenue horse show, delivered a course of law lectures to the benefit of whoever wished to attend them. This was the beginning of the National University, although it was not incorporated until 1870.

"A considerable controversy was indulged in and numerous petitions made to Congress before the result was finally achieved. At length the institution was started under the name of the National University, although not connected with the Government, excepting inasmuch as the President of the United States was made ex-officio chancellor and each year awarded the degrees. The first President to preside over the university was Mr. Harrison, and since his time even the national character given to this institution by the name of the National University, although not connected with the Government, excepting inasmuch as the President of the United States was made ex-officio chancellor and each year awarded the degrees. The first President to preside over the university was Mr. Harrison, and since his time even the national character given to this institution by the name of the National University, although not connected with the Government, excepting inasmuch as the President of the United States was made ex-officio chancellor and each year awarded the degrees.

English in England. (From Harper's Magazine.) That backcountry American maiden who said London was a nice place if you knew the language was not a bit absurd. We speak English, but we have built up our forms of English expression under the influence of a few shires of the old country. It was spoken between two and three centuries ago, while they have been blending and changing the speech of all

their home people during the same period. The result is that an American can hardly utter a sentence in English without calling attention to the difference between his speech and that of the people about him. Only yesterday, after eighteen months' residence in England, I rushed up to a conductor in Charing Cross Station, and asked, "Which car for Liverpool?" He stared at me, and I knew I had spoken a foreign tongue to him, because street vehicles like omnibuses and horse cars are called road cars and tram cars, and there are no other cars in England.

If you ask a guest to your home in England whether he likes his meat rare, he asks what you said, because he does not understand you. He calls meat underdone when it is not too highly cooked, and he calls it overdone when it is canned, he is at a loss again, because he would have said it was timed. To ask him to pass the powdered sugar will again set him to wondering, for he is assured that it is generally thought he knows that it is something called custard or sifted sugar. And if you have candy on the table you may not call it so without betraying your foreign origin, for he calls candy "sweets," abbreviated from "sweets," the natural name of the preserves, puddings, pick, candies, and jams.

To go further along the eccentricities of English at the dining-table, most persons know, I suppose, that the best is called beef roast, cornish beef, and corned beef for a particular cut of it is called "universities of beef," and is known as serviettes.

## RUBBER SHOES FOR HORSES.

They Are Displacing Iron and Steel for Use in Cities.

Rubber shoes for horses are said to be fast displacing the old style shoes and it is asserted that the introduction of the condition of the feet of thousands of Chicago horses has improved fully 50 per cent and that the danger from cracked hoofs, sprained tendons, injured shoulders, and other ailments has decreased 50 per cent. Residents of the city claimed that the horses are able to do considerable more work for the reason that they do not slip and slide about and when night comes the driver of a horse-drawn work is not obliged to exhibit any nervous fatigue that was manifested when they were shod with iron shoes.

Rubber horseshoes are not an entirely new thing in the market, but they have been of experimental stage since a short time ago. Many owners who are now using them were loath to adopt them for the reason that the claim was made that they would do more injury than good to the hoofs of the horse. The rubber shoe, in fact, is claimed now, however, that the actual use has demonstrated that such is not the case.

The chief advantage of the rubber shoe over the iron shoe is said to lie in the fact that once a horse puts his foot down it remains in position, that he is equally as sure footed on granite blocks as on virgin soil. There is no twisting to the right or to the left and no sliding about as is the case with the iron shoe. The rubber shoe is said to be a great deal better than the iron shoe, because of this the horse is able to pull a heavier load.

Some of the largest firms in town, among them Marshall Field & Co., Marshall Field & Co., and the Consumers' Ice Company, are now using rubber shoes on their heavy horses and it is said that others are preparing to follow their lead. Many of the horses of the fire department are also shod with them and here they are found to be of great service, as they relieve much of the jarring on the horses when they are standing about fires and stamping their feet. Their use, however, is not confined to heavy horses. Many of the light road horses have adopted them and they are finding favor among them.

The general adoption of the rubber shoe, it is claimed, would do away to a considerable degree with the noise of the city streets. The rubber shoe is said to be a great deal better than the iron shoe, because of this the horse is able to pull a heavier load.

The shoes are made with a centre of iron, shaped the same as the old iron shoes. The rubber is attached by means of openings through the iron and is inseparable from the shoe. The only way it can be removed is by wearing off or by putting the shoe into a fire and burning it. The rubber shoe is said to be a great deal better than the iron shoe, because of this the horse is able to pull a heavier load.

Rubber shoes cost \$1 each, or double that of iron shoes, and neither size nor weight makes any difference. The claim is made, however, that the shoes will outlast the iron shoes, and that the cost of the rubber shoes is a small price to pay for the benefit they will bring.

William Clancy, superintendent of A. S. Beahm, the Pacific Avenue horse show, has an experiment. They have come to stay. A horse that has been shod with rubber shoes has the best opportunity to learn the construction of the horse's feet and I can say without exaggeration that the rubber shoe is a great deal better than the iron shoe, because of this the horse is able to pull a heavier load.

## A JOKE ON JEFFERSON.

How the Bones of a Sloth Deceived the Virginia Sage.

Thomas Jefferson was proud of his attainments in natural history, and particularly of his recognition by the great naturalist Buffon, to whom he sent specimens and information. With the flattery of a French courtier Buffon wrote Jefferson, before publishing his work, "I am sure that I should have been sure of the facts." This so exalted his appreciation of his ability in that direction that he was shortly after led into a mortifying error.

In Greenbrier county, Virginia, in 1795, a deposit of bones, supposed to be those of a mammoth, was found and sent to Monticello, where Mr. Jefferson sent them to Buffon. He thought that the bones were those of a mammoth, and he wrote Buffon, "I am sure that I should have been sure of the facts." This so exalted his appreciation of his ability in that direction that he was shortly after led into a mortifying error.

## LEARNING TO KILL MEN.

Our Soldiers Study Marksmanship Three Months Each Year.

Figures From 200 Yards to One Mile Away Picked Up by Nickel-Coated Bullets—Practice Which Brought Results in the War With Spain.

All the day the whips crack over the yellow sunburnt strip of plain. On either side low streamers of the anarchists' color float from stumpy staves, at once blowing and whipping and as danger signals. At one end are ten or twelve large squares of white, each bearing the silhouette of a standing man. Half a mile away at the other end are men in gray, lying, standing or sitting in the grass, and it is their duty to give the signals. In the days of smokescreen powder an army target range has little of interest at first glance. There is no longer the roar of the heavy gun, the cloud of white smoke, or the hiss of the bullet. Instead there are a few men littered about the sharp, saucy crack of a Krag-Jorgensen, and a mysterious disk rises from the earth in front of the target, hesitates a moment, and disappears again. It has marked a man's shot.

The Fort Leavenworth rifle range is about a mile from the garrison and all summer troops are camped there. The shooting and the firing of the guns are heard from the trumpet corps in the post has sounded the beautiful "Retreat" and the big garrison flag has slowly floated down to the green parade. By some of the foreign military men the American Army is considered extravagant in its use of ammunition for target practice. Every enlisted man costs the Government about \$12 a year for powder and nickel-coated lead shot at targets, which may seem a small item in the cost of an army of 90,000 men, about three-quarters of a million dollars.

In the cavalry branch the soldier gives three months of the year to learning how to shoot. In the garrison he is taught how to aim. They after day the carbine is mounted on a sack of sand or grain, which in turn is strapped to a tripod. The gun remains stationary and the target, a black disk of paper, is moved across the face of the target. The man who is learning to shoot is taught how to aim. They after day the carbine is mounted on a sack of sand or grain, which in turn is strapped to a tripod. The gun remains stationary and the target, a black disk of paper, is moved across the face of the target. The man who is learning to shoot is taught how to aim.

"There's nothing so panic-causing as to have the bullets cut the grass in front of a man," said one of the officers. "When they go over head the grass is cut, and the man is sure of his target. The regulations encourage low shooting by crediting as many hits as possible that hit the target. They may have glanced from a stone fifty feet in front, when they puncture the black man they count as if they had come straight.

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## FOLLOWING MOTOR MACHINES.

Dangers Experienced by Fast Cyclists Who Ride After Paces.

"A bicyclist who follows a motor pace risks his life every time he enters a race. The excitement of the game and the incessant danger that lurks in the sport are too strong to be resisted. I would just as soon take my chances with a motor pace as I would with a barrel and went through the rapids at Niagara Falls as follow pace in a race on the high-banked tracks. The chances of coming out alive each time are pretty much the same.

"I ride in the races every chance that I get. You see, unpaired races have no attraction for followers of the game. There is no life in them and people won't go to see them. In a motor-paced race the spectators know as well as we do that the chances of coming out alive are pretty much the same.

"I tell you the man in his barrel at Niagara has a better chance than we have. Only last Monday morning an accident happened to one of my motors while I was racing at Madison Square Garden. My motor had gone around the track three or four times to get used to it when the steersman's handle bars twisted on the high bank. The men were tossed off their machine as if they had been struck by lightning. The motor was left on the steep bank to the floor and lay there putting and sizzling as if it were going to burst. The steersman had his chin badly cut.

"I was waiting with my wheel, ready to jump in and follow them when they gave the word, and there would have been an awful mess if I had struck into them when the accident occurred. As it was the motor was smashed and the rider was left to his fate. The motor was left on the steep bank to the floor and lay there putting and sizzling as if it were going to burst. The steersman had his chin badly cut.

"Accidents in following pace are not so frequent on outdoor tracks as inside. I don't think poor Floyd McFarland will ever cross a saddle again as the result of his accident at Madison Square Garden a month ago. He was riding a fifteen-horse motor-paced race with Johnny Nelson, and the whole race was a chapter of accidents. Both motors gave out, a third was patched up, and the two were following it. The motor was left on the steep bank to the floor and lay there putting and sizzling as if it were going to burst. The steersman had his chin badly cut.

"There has never been a sudden catastrophe than that at the Waltham track on May 30 of last year. Harry E. Miles, of New York, was riding a fifteen-horse motor-paced race with Johnny Nelson, and the whole race was a chapter of accidents. Both motors gave out, a third was patched up, and the two were following it. The motor was left on the steep bank to the floor and lay there putting and sizzling as if it were going to burst. The steersman had his chin badly cut.

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## OWNS RARE OLD ALMANACS.

William Colwell, of Chicago, Has a Valuable Collection.

Those of Over a Century Ago Very Different From the Condensed Encyclopedic Annals of Today. Much Space Given to Rhymes.

William Colwell, a business man in the Haymarket Building, West Madison Street, has a rare and curious collection of New England almanacs dating from 1774 to 1786. The collection is not an entirely complete one, many pages and half pages being missing, but a glance through their yellow and tattered pages reveals many things curious, interesting, and illustrative of the tastes and thoughts and manners of the day.

The almanacs of a century and a quarter ago were much different from the condensed encyclopedic annals issued nowadays. They paid no attention to commerce, statistics, ordinary politics, industrial questions, or international relations, but the authors, however, managed to display much literary and prophetic versatility. They were especially strong in weather predictions, and as prolific in poetry as in prophecy.

In fact, they broke into rhyme on almost every subject, as when in noting the terms of courts in the Colony of Connecticut in 1774, those unfortunate enough have suits pending are advised as follows:

Assent thy lawyer, grass him in the set,  
And he will plead for thee even what thou list;  
But if he make thee strong though the same  
Were weak, he will be strong though the same.

These old almanacs contain recipes on all sorts of subjects, and here is one for the bite of a mad dog, which just now may be deemed timely.

"The mad dog bite be blooded, and wash the wound with vinegar and salt water. Take every three hours of blood and camphor made with honey, and a pill of opium."

"The little annual for 1776 is entitled 'Watson's Register and Connecticut Almanac' and was published in Hartford. It is decidedly patriotic, and shows its spirit and aggressiveness both in poetry and prose. Here are a few samples:

O sons of freedom, never then give place  
To the threatening tyrant of a savage race.  
Our country's rights, our liberties, our laws,  
Immortalize our names without delay."

With public spirit let each bosom glow,  
And love of liberty direct the blow.  
Rouse patriot hearts to arms, and plan the plan,  
Teach slaves what's his to play the man."

Mr. Watson then turns to prose and reads for his countrymen this encouraging lesson in the stars:

"America is governed by Mars, Great Britain by Venus, this same Mars and Venus have a meeting this month in the sign Gemini but as Mars was never subjugated to gunnashal power, 'tis to be hoped he will brave it out, and oppose every female artifice to circumvent him."

And judging from the contents of the revolutionary struggle Mars must have hotly chased Venus out of the sign Gemini. Under ordinary conditions this would have been a rather ungallant proceeding on the part of the god of war, but seeing that liberty and humanity were at stake, and that Venus had become the shameless partisan of that traitor, George III., the onslaught of Mars may be justified.

The almanac for 1777, printed at New London, is a patriotic tract for the war for independence. It has venom for the Hessian and a sting for the Tory on almost every page, and curiously uses a strange fact of interesting story on which to base a caustic comment.

The frequent incursions of the Tartars and other barbarous nations into Poland and Germany, says the writer, forced the women sometimes to leave their children exposed in the woods, where they were nursed by bears and wild beasts. In the meantime, when afterward found, were divested of all the properties of humanity but the form and went on all fours. From this the compiler of the almanac deduces that liberty and humanity were at stake, and that Venus had become the shameless partisan of that traitor, George III., the onslaught of Mars may be justified.

The almanac of 1778, published at New London and edited by Edmund Freesther, has nothing to say about politics or war, but it is strong in poetry and aphorisms. Here are a few of the latter:

Monopolists, take care, lest you be dragged to the bar,  
And then these carried far.

"What contention, what confusion for  
Little more of the earth."  
"All the happiness and glory of a state  
Depends on the education of youth."

The dame that's old  
Needs to have her head of old  
Which makes her so old.

This prediction is made for December, while for November it is declared that "all things are cold, the young ladies excepted."

Edmund Freesther is responsible for the almanac of 1780, which appears to have been a pretty close political observer. It also appears that hot weather had no more terror for office-seekers in those days than now, for we find the following as one of the evils predicted for August:

"Many politicians about this time, with great availing pursuing their own private ends, being clothed with that beautiful garment, the public good."

The succeeding almanacs in the collection, up to and including that for 1786, are prepared by Isaac Bickerstaff, and deal largely in aphorisms and predictions astronomical and otherwise. Mr. Bickerstaff seems to have been the real author of the humor in his compositions, as the following from his almanac for 1786 will witness:

"There are, said Sibylls, sixty-three ways to get money and 30 ways to spend it, besides the way of getting it. A man who has his wife need not care how to spend his money, for she will spend it fast enough for him."

## OWNS RARE OLD ALMANACS.

William Colwell, of Chicago, Has a Valuable Collection.

Those of Over a Century Ago Very Different From the Condensed Encyclopedic Annals of Today. Much Space Given to Rhymes.

William Colwell, a business man in the Haymarket Building, West Madison Street, has a rare and curious collection of New England almanacs dating from 1774 to 1786. The collection is not an entirely complete one, many pages and half pages being missing, but